

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously presented) A communications method, comprising:
establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient;
and
during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:
 establishing a video communications session between the sender and the
recipient;
 generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;
 storing the video instant message on behalf of the sender;
 after generation of the video instant message is complete, receiving an indication
to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient; and
 in response to receiving the indication to trigger sending of the video instant
message to the recipient, initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient
using the video communications session.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein storing the video instant
message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the
sender.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

receiving a text instant message intended for the recipient from the sender; and
delivering the text instant message to the recipient.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of hardware associated with the recipient.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of software associated with the recipient.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 further comprising displaying a user interface according to the capabilities of the recipient.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising establishing a generic signaling interface channel, a control channel, and a video channel between the sender and the recipient.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the control channel comprises a TCP/IP socket.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the video channel comprises a UDP channel.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the video channel comprises a TCP channel.

48. (Previously presented) A communications method, comprising:
establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient;
and

during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

receiving, on behalf of the recipient, a completed video instant message sent by the sender using the video communications session;

storing the video instant message on behalf of the recipient;

accessing the stored video instant message; and

enabling presentation of the video instant message to the recipient.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the recipient.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48 further comprising during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

receiving a text instant message intended for the recipient from the sender; and

enabling presentation of the text instant message to the recipient.

51. (Cancelled)

in response to receiving the indication to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient, initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications session.

57. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 56 wherein the instructions for storing the video instant message comprise instructions for storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the sender.

58. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 56 further comprising instructions for:

receiving a text instant message intended for the recipient from the sender during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient; and

delivering the text instant message to the recipient during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient.

59. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 56 further comprising instructions for accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient.

60. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 59 wherein the instructions for accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprise instructions for accessing an indication of hardware associated with the recipient.

61. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 59 wherein the instructions for accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprise instructions for accessing an indication of software associated with the recipient.

62. (Previously presented): The computer program of claim 59 further comprising instructions for displaying a user interface according to the capabilities of the recipient.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously presented) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient;
and

during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

receiving, on behalf of the recipient, a completed video instant message sent by the sender using the video communications session;

storing the video instant message on behalf of the recipient;

accessing the stored video instant message; and

enabling presentation of the video instant message to the recipient.

65. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 64 wherein the instructions for storing the video instant message comprise instructions for storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the recipient.

66. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 64 further comprising instructions for:

receiving a text instant message intended for the recipient from the sender during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient; and

enabling presentation of the text instant message to the recipient during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

means for initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications session in response to receiving the indication ~~that triggers~~ to trigger sending of the vide instant message to the recipient.

means for enabling presentation of the video instant message to the recipient during the presence-based communications session.

76. (Previously presented) The system of claim 69, wherein the means for receiving the completed video instant message comprises a client device comprising a processor, a controller and a storage medium.

establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient;
during the presence-based communications session, receiving, from the sender, a request to establish a video communications session between the sender and the recipient that is concurrent with the presence-based communications session;

in response to receiving the request to establish a video communications session between the sender and the recipient, establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient that is concurrent with the presence-based communications session; and

during the concurrent presence-based and video communications sessions between the sender and the recipient:

generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

receiving an instruction from the sender to send the video instant message to the recipient after generation of the video instant message is complete; [[and]]

in response to receiving the instruction to send the video instant message to the recipient, initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications ~~session~~; session;

receiving a non-video message from the sender intended for the recipient; and

initiating a transmission of the non-video message from the sender to the recipient using the presence-based communications session.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82 wherein initiating a transfer of the video instant message using the video communications session comprises:

enabling presentation, to the recipient, of a hyperlink that is selectable by the recipient to trigger a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient;

receiving an indication of a selection of the hyperlink by the recipient; and

using the video communications session to transfer the video instant message to the recipient in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the hyperlink by the recipient.

84. (Previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein:

participating in video instant messaging comprises enabling display of an icon that indicates that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging.

87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 86 wherein:
the icon is selectable to invoke a video instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient; and
the method further comprises:
receiving an indication of a selection of the icon by the sender; and
establishing a video instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the icon by the sender.

88. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82 wherein establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient comprises establishing a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient.

89. (Currently amended) The method of claim 88
wherein establishing a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient includes:
displaying, to the sender, a list of potential text instant message participants, the list of potential text instant message participants including the recipient,
receiving, from the sender, a selection of the recipient from the list of potential text instant message participants,
displaying, to the sender, a text instant messaging display window area that is configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient and to display text instant messages received from the recipient and that includes a control that is configured to initiate a video communications session between the sender and the ~~recipient~~, recipient;

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface

associated with the initiated text instant messaging session, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient;

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging; and

based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging.

91. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein establishing a presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient includes:

initiating a text instant messaging session between a sender and a recipient;

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient;

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging; and

based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging.

92. (New) The computer program of claim 56 wherein the instructions for establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient include instructions for:

initiating a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient;

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient;

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging; and

based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging.

93. (New) The computer program of claim 64 wherein the instructions for establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient include instructions for:

initiating a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient;

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient;

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging; and

based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging.

94. (New) The system of claim 68 wherein the means for establishing a presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient includes:

means for initiating a text instant messaging session between a sender and a recipient;

means for enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient;

means for determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient; and

means for enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging.

95. (New) The system of claim 69 wherein the means for establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient includes:

means for initiating a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient;

means for enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient;

means for determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient; and

means for enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging.

96. (New) The method of claim 82 wherein:
establishing a presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient includes:
initiating a text instant messaging session between a sender and a recipient,
in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient,
in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, and
based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging; and
receiving the request to establish the video communications session between the sender and the recipient includes receiving the request to establish the video communications session between the sender and the recipient after enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging.

97. (New) The method of claim 85 wherein:
the instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session includes an instant message transcript area for displaying a running transcript of text instant messages exchanged during the instant messaging sessions and a message entry area that enables the sender to enter text instant messages, the instant message transcript area and the

message entry area being included in a single window of the instant messaging graphical user interface;

the method further comprises:

receiving a request to establish a video instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient, and

in response to receiving the request to establish a video instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient:

establishing a video instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient, and

enabling an updating of the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to include a video instant message display area that enables the sender to view video instant messages generated by the recipient, the video instant message display area being included in the same single window as the instant message transcript area and the message entry area.